

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 16 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/007018.

Please add new claims 17 to 34 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (new): A device for comparing calculations for product components in different product types, the device comprising:

- an electronic product type listing of a plurality of product types;

- an electronic parts lists valid for each product type in the product type listing and including a breakdown of a product of the product type into a plurality of components and including at least one feature of each component;

- an electronic component description database including a plurality of automatically analyzable component descriptions for each component occurring in the parts list, each component description corresponding to at least one of the plurality of components and being valid for at least one product type in the product type listing and including at least one characteristic of the at least one feature;

- an electronic calculation database having calculations corresponding to a component occurring in the parts list and to a product type in the product type listing;

- a component selecting unit configured to select at least one component occurring in the parts list;

- a determining unit configured to automatically determine all calculations in the calculation database relating to a selected component and configured to determine the product types of the determined calculations; and

a comparison unit configured to generate a comparison of a plurality of determined calculations and the component descriptions in effect for a selected component and for determined product types.

Claim 18 (new): The device as recited in claim 17, wherein:

the parts list includes a further breakdown of each component into one or more parts;
at least one calculation in the calculation database includes information about a percentage of a part in the calculation of a respective component;

the comparison unit is configured to generate a partial comparison for each part of the selected component, wherein each partial comparison includes the percentage of the part of the calculation of the comparison.

Claim 19 (new): The device as recited in claim 18, wherein the comparison unit is configured to generate a configuration comparison of the characteristics of the features of the parts in the product types and configured to insert the configuration comparison into the comparison.

Claim 20 (new): The device as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a product type selecting unit configured to select product types occurring in the product type listing, and wherein the determining unit is configured to determine all calculations relating to a selected component and a selected product type.

Claim 21 (new): The device as recited in claim 17, wherein the calculations relate to costs and further comprising an electronic cost type list including a plurality of cost types for each calculation, the cost type list being valid for all components of the parts list and all product types of the listing, wherein each calculation includes a partial calculation for each cost type in the cost type list, and wherein the comparison unit is configured to break down a comparison into the cost types of the cost type list.

Claim 22 (new): The device as recited in claim 21, further comprising a cost type selecting unit configured to select at least one cost type occurring in the cost type list and wherein the

comparison unit is configured to automatically remove cost types not selected from the comparison.

Claim 23 (new): The device as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

a calculation selecting unit configured to select a calculation contained in the comparison for each cost type of the cost type list; and

a cost type calculation unit configured to generate a calculation for a selected component, each calculation having a partial calculation for a respective cost type of the cost type list, the partial calculation for a cost type being equal to the partial calculation of the calculation selected for the cost type.

Claim 24 (new): The device as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

an electronic attribute list having attributes assignable to the calculations and having possible values of the attributes, the attribute list being valid for all components of the parts list and all product types of the listing, wherein the calculations in the calculation database include attribute-attribute value pairs, each attribute occurring in the attribute list and each attribute value being a possible value of the attribute; and

an attribute selecting unit configured to select at least one attribute of the attribute list and one possible value of a selected attribute, wherein the determining unit is configured to automatically determining all calculations including at least one selected attribute-attribute value pair.

Claim 25 (new): The device as recited in claim 24, wherein the attribute list includes at least one of the following attributes:

- a period of time to which the calculation refers;
- a material used to manufacture at least one product component;
- a supplier of at least one product component;
- a manufacturing method used in the manufacture of at least one product component;
- a resource used in the manufacture of at least one product component; and
- a region in which at least one product component is manufactured.

Claim 26 (new): The device as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a calculation unit configured to generate the calculations using the electronic parts list;
and
a memory unit configured to save the calculations in the calculation database.

Claim 27 (new): A method for comparing calculations for product components in different product types, the method comprising:

providing an electronic product type listing of a plurality of product types, each product type corresponding to one or more products;

providing an electronic parts list valid for each product of the product types including a breakdown of each product into a plurality of components and including at least one feature of each component;

saving a plurality of automatically analyzable component descriptions for each component occurring in the parts list in an electronic description database, each component description being valid for at least one product type occurring in the listing and including at least one characteristic of at least one feature of each component;

saving a plurality of calculations relating to a component occurring in the parts list and a product type occurring in the product type listing in an electronic calculation database;

selecting at least one component occurring in the parts list;

determining a set of the plurality of calculations that relate to the selected component in the electronic calculation database;

determining a set of the plurality of component descriptions that are valid for the selected component and for the product types to which the set of calculations refer; and

generating a comparison of the set of calculations and the set of component descriptions.

Claim 28 (new): The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the saving, selecting, determining and generating steps are performed using a data processing system.

Claim 29 (new): The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the calculations refer to costs and further comprising:

providing an electronic cost type list having cost types of a calculation, the cost type list

being valid for all components and all product types, wherein the determining of the set of calculations includes determining one partial calculation for each cost type of the cost type list; selecting a calculation for each cost type of the cost type list; and generating a further calculation for the selected component having a partial calculation per cost type of the cost type list, the partial calculation of the selected calculation for the cost type being used the cost type in the further calculation.

Claim 30 (new): A method for comparing calculations for product components in different product types, the method comprising:

- providing an electronic product type listing of a plurality of product types, each product type corresponding to one or more products,

- providing an electronic attribute list containing attributes of a calculation and possible values of the attributes, the attribute list being valid for all components and all product types of the listing;

- providing an electronic parts list valid for each product of the product types of the listing, and including a breakdown of each product into a plurality of components and at least one features of each component;

- saving automatically analyzable component descriptions for each component occurring in the parts list in an electronic description database, each component description being valid for at least one product type occurring in the listing and including characteristics of the features of the component in this product type,

- saving calculations relating to at least one component occurring in the parts list and at least one product type occurring in the product listing, and assigning attribute-attribute value pairs comprising attributes and attribute values of the attribute list in an electronic calculation database;

- selecting at least one attribute of the attribute list and at least one possible value of a selected attribute;

- determining a set of the calculations saved in the calculation database to which a selected attribute-attribute value pair is assigned;

- determining a set of component descriptions that are valid for the component and for the product types corresponding to the set of calculations; and

generating a comparison of the set of calculations and the set of component descriptions.

Claim 31 (new): The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the saving, selecting, determining, and generating steps are performed using a data processing system:

Claim 32 (new): The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the attribute list comprising possible attributes of a calculation includes at least one of the following attributes:

- a period of time to which the calculation refers;
- a material used to manufacture at least one product component;
- a supplier of at least one product component;
- a manufacturing method used in the manufacture of at least one product component;
- a resource used in the manufacture of at least one product component; and
- a region in which at least one product component is manufactured.

Claim 33 (new): A computer program product that is directly loadable into the internal memory of a computer and includes software segments configured to implement the method as recited claim 27 when the product runs on a computer.

Claim 34 (new): The computer program product saved on a computer-readable medium and having computer-readable program means causing the computer to execute a method as recited in claim 27.